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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/665,760	09/20/2000	Ulrich Priesnitz	GR 98 P 1397 P	8661

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EXAMINER

DYE, RENA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/665,760

Applicant(s)

PRIESNITZ ET AL.

Examiner

Rena L. Dye

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. The rejections of record as set forth in the last Office action (paper no. 7), not repeated herein, have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the present claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,3,10,11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler (US 4,865,198).

Butler teaches a sheathing article or overwrapping packaging material comprising an external layer of flexible transparent or translucent overwrap plastic film. In all embodiments of the invention the overwrap film must have sufficient transparency or translucency so that a pattern disposed on its inner surface is visible through the film. Preferred films include single or multiple layer films comprising polyolefins (thermoplastic material). The chemical nature of the film is not critical as long as it (1) has sufficient film integrity for its intended protective use, (2) provides a surface having appropriate ink affinity characteristics, and (3) is essentially transparent, or sufficiently conductive with respect to the energy source used to vaporize or activate the underlying coating or pigments. With appropriate selection of energy type and level, wavelength and the link, the process is amenable to any of the optically transparent overwrap

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films used commercially (column 2, lines 12-39). The overwrapped package includes a package of substrate 3 which can be constructed from any suitable packaging material such as paper, metal, glass, plastic or the like with a heat-labile ink, pigment or adhesive coating 4. The heat-labile ink can be any ink that can be vaporized by an energy source such as light provided from a pulsed laser. The ink can be thermotropic in nature so that direct heat application causes a change in color (column 2, lines 40-55).

Butler fails to specifically teach a dye provided in both the first and second layers. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have provided dye in both layers or either layer by itself to have provided the overwrapping package material with a preferred design choice. The first and second layers being formed of the same material are within the scope of the teachings of the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-9 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler (US 4,865,198) in view of Bonkowski et al. (US 6,031,457).

Butler has been previously discussed and fails to specifically teach graphite as the dye material.

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Bonkowski teaches a substrate layer or film which can be printed using a laser or other types of printers. The printing can be composed of any printing materials such as paint, ink or graphite compositions (column 5, lines 19-57).

Since Bonkowski teaches that graphite is a known dye or ink for use in printing with a laser, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used graphite in the ink or pigment layer of Butler. The proportion of dye in each of the layers would have been an obvious design choice based upon the desired visual appearance.

With respect to thickness, one having ordinary skill in the art would have known how to have varied the thickness based upon the desired degree of strength and barrier property.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on January 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's request that the Primary Examiner consider the documents submitted herewith on the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement is acknowledged; however, an Information Disclosure Statement has not been filed with Applicant's response.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding the Butler reference, Butler specifically teaches that a heat-labile ink which is employed can be any ink which can be vaporized by an energy source such as light provided from a pulsed laser. The ink can also be thermotropic in nature so that direct heat application causes a change in color. Suitable ink compounds for use in the invention include but are not limited to pigmented inks (column 2, lines 46-55).

Although Butler teaches a transfer of ink from one layer to another, or the ink located on one layer prior to irradiation with photons, it remains to be the examiner's position that it would have been an obvious design choice to have provided ink in one layer, or both of the first and second layers, to have indicated tampering. Applying ink in one or both layers in a desired amount would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have indicated tampering in a particular manner. Therefore, the present claims continue to be rejected over the applied prior art of record.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

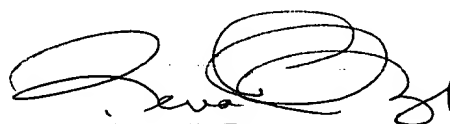
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rena L. Dye whose telephone number is 703-308-4331. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 703-308-5183. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rena L. Dye', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rena L. Dye
Primary Examiner
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R. Dye
January 31, 2003